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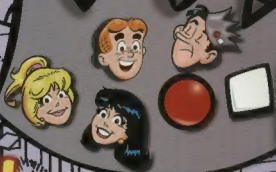
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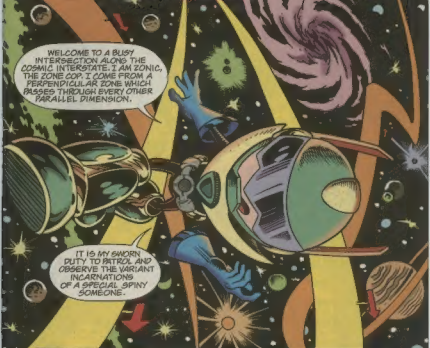


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WELCOME TO A BUSY
INTERSECTION ALONG THE
COSMIC INTERSTATE. I AM ZONIC,
THE ZONE COP. I COME FROM A
PERPENDICULAR ZONE WHICH
PASSES THROUGH EVERY OTHER
PARALLEL DIMENSION.

IT IS MY SWORN
DUTY TO PATROL AND
OBSERVE THE VARIANT
INCARNATIONS
OF A SPECIAL SPINY
SOMEONE.



MY PRIMARY FOCUS IS HISTORY'S
MOST PIVOTAL HERO, SONIC PRIME,
THE TRUE BLUE HEDGEHOG OF
ALL REALITIES.

BUT THERE
ARE COUNTLESS
VERSIONS OF SONIC
IN ALTERNATE
DIMENSIONS... SUCH
AS THE ONE I'M
ABOUT TO VISIT
WITH YOU--

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ZOOB

WE HAVE TRAVELED
A FULL MILLENNIUM FORWARD
IN TIME TO A DIVERGENT
FUTURE. IT IS THE YEAR 4235
AND THIS IS MOBIUS. OR
RATHER, WHAT REMAINS OF IT
ONE THOUSAND YEARS AFTER
"THE WAR OF THE WORLD" ALMOST
OBLITERATED IT.

MOBIUS IS
STILL A RAVAGED
HUSK, BARELY CAPABLE
OF SUSTAINING LIFE
IN CERTAIN ISOLATED
AREAS. HARDLY A
PLACE ANYONE WOULD
CHOOSE TO VISIT
AND YET...

CH-
WOK
WOK

NO METEOR CAUSES A
SONIC BOOM LIKE THAT!
I'LL BET THAT WAS SOME KIND
OF INCOMING SPACECRAFT!
I'LL CHECK IT OUT...



I WAS RIGHT
--A STRANGER'S
CAME TO TOWN...
MY TOWN!



I...I'VE
LANDED! BUT
CAN THIS TRULY
BE...HOME?



WHOA! GOT
TO GET MY LAND
LEGS. I'M GLAD MY
CONFINEMENT
SUIT COMPENSATES
FOR THIS ACRID
ATMOSPHERE...



YOU DON'T
SMELL SO GOOD
YOURSELF, INTRUDER!
HOW LONG SINCE YOU
WASHED THOSE NASTY
THREADS?



FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF THE GALAXY

PART ONE, CHAPTER ONE

MICHAEL GALLAGHER-WRITER JIM VALENTINO-PENCILLER
HARRY INKER VICKIE WILLIAMS-LETTERER STEPHANE VIGZIO-COLORIST
JUSTIN GABRIE-EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR VICTOR GORELUK-MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



DON'T "DIS" MY SUIT, PAL! IT ALLOWS ME TO FOCUS AND FIRE MY SPEED POWER AS A BOLT OF PSYCHO-KINETIC ENERGY!

POW!

POW!

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT YOU! I JUST NEED INFORMATION. HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN GONE FROM MOBILS? TEN YEARS?... MAYBE TWENTY?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHO ARE YOU?

"IT WAS 3235. ROBOTNIK TRICKED ME INTO THINKING SALLY WAS INSIDE A POD WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE A ROCKETSHIP! HE LAUNCHED ME INTO DEEP SPACE!

"ONCE BEYOND THE SOLAR SYSTEM, I BEGAN TO RUN OUT OF AIR AND I WAS PICKED UP BY A RACE OF GYPSY ALIENS CALLED THE PEARLMEN. THEY SAVED ME BY FITTING ME WITH THIS LIFE-SUSTAINING SUIT, BUT WANTED NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH ME.

"I TRIED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM, BUT IT WAS NO USE. THE PEARLMEN PUT ME IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION AND JETTISONED ME IN A SHUTTLE CAPSULE. I'VE BEEN DRIFTING EVER SINCE. HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN? I MUST KNOW!"

YOU ASKED FOR IT, MAN...
YOU'VE BEEN AWAY FOR
A THOUSAND YEARS!



SOASPIE
W-WUH-
WHAT?!



"EASY, PAL! YOU'RE LUCKY I
SPEND SOME TIME AT THE OLD
DOO-CHIP LIBRARY! I KNOW A
LITTLE ANCIENT HISTORY.
DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY "3235"?-
THAT'S THE YEAR--what's his
name--NOTNIK? HE BEGAN
THE WAR OF THE WORLD!"

"I'M NOT SURE OF THE DETAILS
...THEY SAY THE GOOD GUYS LOST
THEIR CHAMPION SOMEHOW, BUT
IN THE END, THE FAT MAN SANG.
THIS PLANET WAS TOASTED AND
ABANDONED."



"ONLY A FEW LIFEFORMS REMAINED ALIVE ON MOBILUS.
THE TOUGHEST MANAGED TO ADAPT AND SURVIVE OVER
THE CENTURIES...LIKE MY INHUMANT ANCESTORS.
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE...CALL ME TAILON!"



NICE TO MEET YOU...
I'M SONIC THE 3 UL-P! 3
THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD
HEPBOHOS! IS ANYONE
ELSE AROUND?

JUST THE LOCAL BRASS
KNUCKLES, BUT THEY'RE
NOT VERY NICE!

THE WHO--
WHOA!

IT'S JUST A SMALL
GANG OF THEM. THERE'S
THOUSANDS OF RENEGADE
ROBOTS LIKE THESE ALL
OVER THE CITY!

TELL YOU
WHAT-- SET ME
DOWN OVER THERE
AND WE'LL TAKE
'EM DOWN!

IT'S BEEN A
THOUSAND YEARS
SINCE I RUMBLED!
I'M ITCHIN' TO
GO!

LET'S
DO IT!

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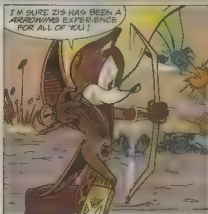
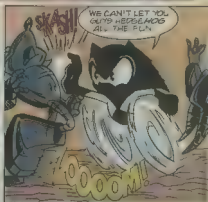
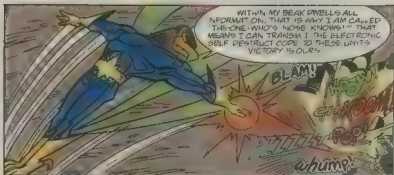
WE'RE
THE FREEDOM
FIGHTERS OF
THE GALAXY,
AND THIS IS
OUR SHIP,
LPROCK!
MY NAME'S
CAPTAIN
ROTOR 27

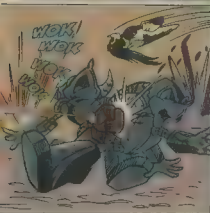
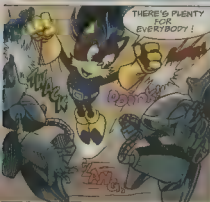
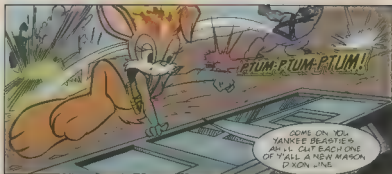
GREETINGS.
I AM SALETA.

HEY,
CALL ME
BLNN

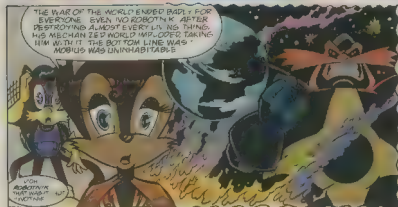
HEY CALL ME
'TWAN-DU

AND I AM
HAWKHAWK
STAND
AS DE.





End of Chapter 1

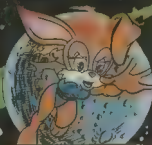




MIRACULOUSLY, FOUR OF ZEE ORIGINAL KNOTHOLE FREEDOM FIGHTERS LIVED THROUGH ZEE FINAL FIRESTORM AND MANAGED TO DRAG THEMSELVES BACK TO ZEE, SMOKING RUINS OF ROBOTROPOLIS, SEEKING A WAY OFF ZEE PLANET

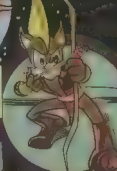


LOCATING UNPAMAGED SINGLE-PASSENGER SPACECRAFT IN ROBOTNIK'S ESCAPE TOWER, THEY LAUNCHED THEMSELVES TO INDIVIDUAL SURROUNDING PLANETS. OUR ANCESTORS VOWED TO ADAPT, POPULATE AND EVOLVE ANEW OR DIE TRYING.



EACH SPECIES SURVIVED, BUT EVOLUTIONARY CHANGES OCCURRED DUE TO THEIR NEW LOCATIONS WITH REMARKABLE RESULTS..

"BUNNI'S CLAN SETTLED THE PLANET CLOSEST TO THE SUN LESS GRAY, TY MADE THEM INCREDIBLE ACROBATS, AND STATIC ELECTRICITY MADE THEIR HAIR STAND UP AS IF IT WAS ON FIRE!

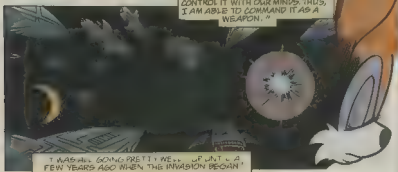


"TWAN-DLI'S ANCESTORS DEVELOPED THE R TOLPEES INTO TALL CRESTS WHICH COLLECT SOLAR ENERGY THEY ARE A PAGAN CULTURE, WORSHIPPING A VARIETY OF GALL STONE IDOLS.

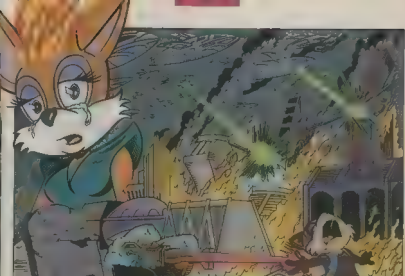


"ROTOR IS PART OF "GEN-27", THE TWENTY-SEVENTH INCARNATION OF HIS WALRUS FORBATHER. THEY SETTLED A MARSH PLANET, DEVELOPED A SPARTAN CULTURE AND EVOLVED INTO POWERFUL PHYSICAL SPECIMENS

"MY RACE PIONEERED BLUTO, THE PLANET FARTHEST FROM THE SUN BECAUSE LIGHT WAS SO PRECIOUS, WE DEVELOPED THE CAPABILITY TO CONTROL IT WITH OUR MINDS, THUS, I AM ABLE TO COMMAND IT AS A WEAPON."



"I WAS ALL GOING PRETTY WELL UP UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO WHEN THE INVASION BEGAN."



"IN THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS MILITARY MOVE SINCE SHERMAN'S MARCH TO THE SEA, OUR SOLAR SYSTEM WAS OVERRUN BY A MERCILESS RACE OF FISH-LIKE CREATURES CALLED THE SHARK!"

"THE SHARK WERE UNMITTINGLY CREATED BY THE FORTY FATHOMS FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHEN THEY LAUNCHED A SPACE WAR FULL OF THEIR HYDROTECHNOLOGY DURING THE WAR OF THE WORLD. BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY - ONE THAT YOU'RE WE COME TO A TALE OF A TONIC GRAMS AND REGENT FOR THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS."

"AFTER THEIR FEEDING FRENZY OF GENOCIDE WAS COMPLETE, THE SHARK LEFT LITTLE DID THEY KNOW THAT ONE MEMBER OF EACH PLANET HAD SURVIVED THEIR CAMPAIGN OF TERROR."



"THE MYSTERIOUS AND DOWNRIGHT UNFRIENDLY HAWKHAWK SCOUTED AND ORGANIZED US. WE FORMED A TEAM, PLEDGING TO DEFEND ANYONE ANYWHERE AGAINST EVIL AGGRESSION. WE CALL OURSELVES THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF THE GALAXY!"



HOLY
BUCKETS!
IT'S
HIM!

WASP?
SO THE
LEGENDS ARE
TRUE?

INDEED,
SALETA THE
LIT MATE
DISASTER IS
UPON US.

BEHOLD! IT IS
"SILVER SNIVELY"! HE IS
HERALD TO THE GREATEST
MENACE IN THE UNIVERSE
AND WHOSE ARRIVAL HERE
IS NOW A FORGONE
CONCLUSION.

OH, UNKIND FATE!
SILVER SNIVELY'S MASTER
ROBOLACTUS, THE PLANET
GLUTTON IS COMING -- AND
HE HUNGERS!

TO BE CONTINUED...

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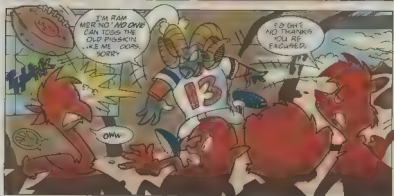
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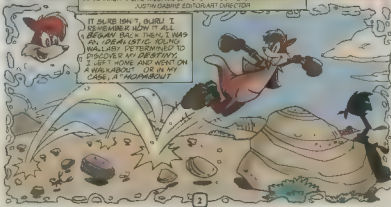
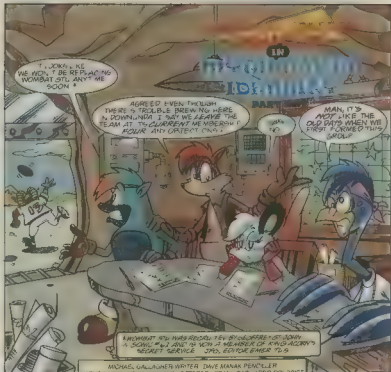
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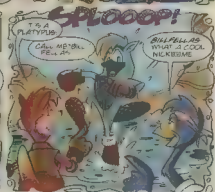
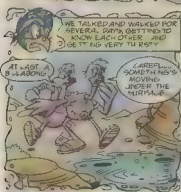
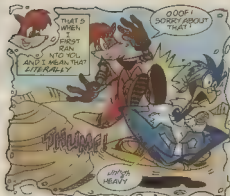
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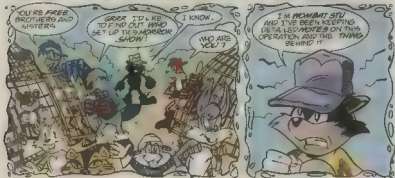
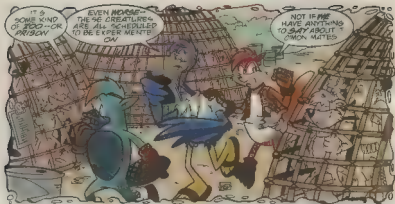
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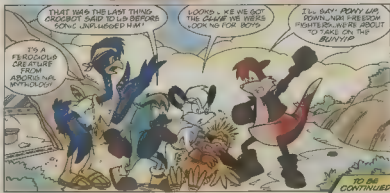
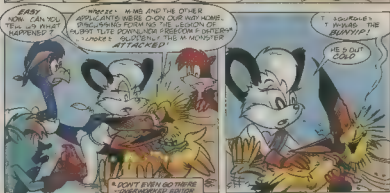












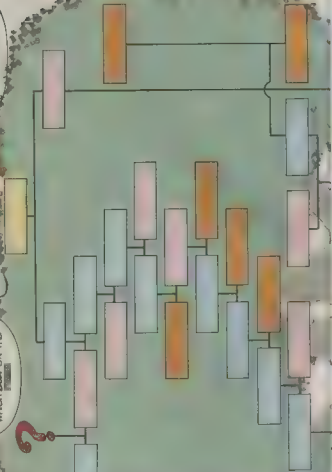
FOR SOME TIME
NOW, EVERYONE'S BEEN
ASKING JUST WHO'S
RELATED TO WHOM IN **MY**
FAMILY, SO I PUT TOGETHER
THIS **SCORECARD** FOR ALL
YOU READERS TO KEEP
TRACK WITH.

THOSE OF YOU
WHO'VE BEEN PAYING
ATTENTION SHOULD
KNOW WHICH **NAME**
FROM THE **COLUMN** ON
THE LEFT GOES WITH
WHICH **BOX** ON THE

BUT I'LL BE A
SPORT ABOUT IT AND
TELL YOU THE **YELLOW**
BOXES ARE FOR
CHARACTERS YET TO
BE **SHOWN** OR
MENTIONED.

TABLE

JORDANN
KAYLA-LA
EDMUND
D MITR
STEPHENWOLF
MENN KER
MOONWATCHER
HARLAN
MORTOIRELX
REMBRANDT
AARON
JORDAN
LJGER
MERINDA
MAR SJ
MATTHAS
KRAON
LEINDA
HAWK NG
SONA RA
TOSOR
VON-CA



SPECTRE

THUNDERHAWK

SQUADRON

JANUARY

ATHAR

CRYSTA, LA

SABRE

JENNA, U

LOCKE

LARA LE

WYNNACHER

KNOWLES

JULIE SL

LARA SL

WHEN A
RELATION OF MAE
WHO HASN'T BEEN SEEN
SO FAR IN ONE OF MY
ADVENTURES DOES TURN
UP YOU CAN THEN JOT
THEIR NAME DOWN IN THE
PROPER SPOT

- ESTABLISHED MALE CHARACTER
- ESTABLISHED FEMALE CHARACTER
- CHARACTER YET TO APPEAR

IF YOU GET
STUMPED FIGURING IT
OUT, I'LL HAVE THE
ANSWERS FOR YOU NEXT
ISSUE! HAVE FUN AND
SEE YOU THEN!

THIS JUST IN!

I can imagine all the longtime readers having finished the stories in this issue are now scratching their heads saying, "That was good, but what happened to the regular on-going story-line?" A fair question, to be sure. When I was a kid reading comics the editor would explain it as the "Dreaded Deadline Boom" It sounded bad, but I also didn't explain much. That one phrase alone covered a lot of sins.

In this case, the answer can simply be summed up like this. Life happens

Because of the time lag between when the stories are produced and when you get to read them, if someone gets sick, or moves, or gets married, or does one of the many things that can interrupt a work schedule more often than not, it usually can be handled without causing disruption in the Archive production department or any of the readers watching. However at some point earlier this year, I required medical attention beyond what is usually necessary to treat a flu or an upset stomach, and it was definitely going to affect my workload, particularly on the Knuckles stories. At that point, when I informed editor Justin Gabriele of the steps I was taking to keep things going, he suggested that I take a break and work at a slower pace until I had a chance to recover. We both looked at it as a good thing in that it would allow Justin a chance to experiment a bit with the book and I would have the time to figure out how to work ideas into the stories that I hadn't had the chance to so far.

As a result, you now get to see this nifty 2-part story that was originally being planned for a future issue of SONIC SUPER SPECIAL, as well as other goodies we have in store over the next two issues, before things get back to normal with SONIC #106 (Normal in the sense that Kar will continue with the lead feature and Dawn and I will be back on Knuckles, but we still be pulling rabbits out of our hats to make it worth your while.)

Before anyone asks, yes, I'm now back to my normal self, feeling really great, hard at work on future issues of this series, and in the midst of planning a relocation from the east coast to the west coast. As I said, life happens. Take care.

KEN—

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NEXT ISSUE: What else would you expect from the stunning conclusion to this issue's saga (still written by Mike Galsburg)? Because Jim Valentino's schedule didn't allow for him to finish things up, and I was on the road to recovery, Owen Beez and I stepped in to handle the art. Plus, Mike G. and Dave Marsh return with more of the Diamond Freedom Fighters, as well as more fun feature pages. Where else could you find this much fun and excitement, eh?

SPECIAL NOTE: Just when we thought everyone received their proper acknowledgments, we finally received our copies of SONIC #100, and somehow two glaring omissions happened between the time we sent our copy to press and when the book was printed. Thanks to our enthusiasm, artist Scott Shaw, layout page designer Joe Pappas and Dennis Age somewhat fill all of the blanks for that we're truly sorry. We hope this makes up for it, and promise to get you guys in the next time we do this.

AND NOW, IT'S TIME TO CHECK THIS MONTH'S MAIL:

Dear Sonic Team,

According to the latest issue of Wizard ("The Comics Magazine"—#115, August 2001), Mike might not be a major player in Sonic's romantic life in the future. On page 85 in the Database (news/release Calendar) section, an 8k-style pic of Sonic is listed in the square Saturday, July 7th, accompanied by the caption: "Sonic the Hedgehog #100 (Archie Comics) Sonic and Princess Sally reunite. www.archiecomics.com".

Well, in any, I was surprised. Not only by the news, but the fact that I can share

with the fingers on one hand the number of times that Wizard has printed "anything" regarding the Sonic comic. In fact, the first thing I did when I bought my first issue of Wizard was to look for Gene Proctor's and Pat Sparrow's names in the Top 100 Winners/Winners and Greater Index sections. I've never seen them listed, but at least the Sonic comic RUC listed in the monthly Price Guide!

If the info printed was true, maybe we can expect Archie to take more fan suggestions to heart in the future (since it was Mike the fan reaction to Mike that prompted Sonic and Sally's [hopeful] future wedding)...

WIKIOWIKI—A LAME

Unfortunately Mike WIKIOWIKI has put in really awkwardly the conclusion the SONIC comic has made to the comic industry in general, so that its popularity exceeds that of most books they feature, but it enough of the readers write and let them know, maybe they'll get a clue, you didn't? As for the Mike-Wiki-Wiki thing, I would hate to say that's over and done with, as Karl may or may not have a surprise in store in some upcoming volumes.

Dear Justin,

Right, right, so I couldn't stay away. You many memories, SONIC #100 starts off with the core freedom fighters striking a pose with the covers of the past 99 regular series issues in the background. Not as flashy as SHOTS's silver or SHOTS's gold borders, but still risky.

Starting with the Sonic story, Ron Lim does a decent job this time around. His portrayal of Dr. Robotnik's demise on page 1, the moment of silence for Sally on page 7, and the dream-like story and of Mike Morgan on page 17 are all excellent bits. You can see him and pieces of Fry and Spaz (none of the former) here and there throughout the story. Sally looks odd for the reader story (more realistic than ground systems) and Robot's head is just plain wrong. But all things considered, Mr. Lim got the job done looking good, and best of all, it conveyed the sense of the story very well to someone who was critical of Ron Lim in the past, that's high praise.

As for the story, I must be honest, I was fairly disliking #100. My wife I happily surprised, I heard myself getting bored as the story unfolded. I wanted to know what was going to happen to Sonic, and I was totally taken off-guard when Sally PMAKESKEE Robot. The dialogue tripped a little here and there, but all-in-all, it took me back to the glory days. One case was a far cry better than recent months, especially with a number of plot lines tied.

Moving along to the Knuckles segment, Mr. Proctor does a decent job throughout the book. There is no particular rise or drop in quality. To be honest, I haven't been his biggest fan when it comes to furry art. But he can draw humans far better than I, so I have no reason to talk. Considering how he was first drawn, Mecha-Grimm is on-model and with enough insane detail to satisfy me. The only quail I really have are Green-Knuckles's busy knees, Tobi's eye on page 8, and Knuckles's proportions on page 3. I don't know what bugs me about her on page 3, the

just data. Regardless of these few points, the quality is consistent and it gets the story across.

This chapter is a big turning point in the life of our favorite Guardian, and it's done in a quick, compact, neat little story. I could even think this feeling like something had been accomplished. The only thing that really bugged me was Green-Knuckles and Tobi's hug on page 5. They're on the bridge of the steam craft, Knuckles has already made it quite clear that he has no sticky fingers and her right arm on her back-side. Mecha-Dentist is obviously using the co-oler to play Green-Knuckles like a harp, and yet they're allowed to hug and exchange terms of endearment. I just can't see it that way. Then again, with Mecha-Dentist wanting to play Green-Knuckles in his bed, maybe showing him with gifts (in the H-inhabited) was his plan all along. I don't know. I just don't know. In any event, I'll be checking out the next issue.

IAN POTTS

I had to condense your letter for reasons of space, but, but I trust the salient points came through. You were far from alone in your praise of SONIC #100, as the next writer will testify.

Dear Sonic-gram,

THE COVER: The colors could use a bit of brightening, especially on our friend Antoine there. Bowtie looks, in one word, awesome, as does my two-tailed kawaii kitten, Tobi. Sally's hand looks more like a balloon with pinch marks on her arm, it and Sonic looks like the patented Spaz-est of eg Sonic. The background is a grayscale field version of just about. You can see the SONIC #100 cover in the corner. Look on it and see how much Spaz has changed. RATING: 95

SONIC STORY: Life set up as I expected it to be. It's reminiscent of the set-up in SONIC #99—Sally filled with stories that fit in different people. It makes it rather hard to figure out what happened to each person... et, unfortunately, there's a lot of clearing up. Robot and Antoine are dead; the Arabian are back, but they'll be along the sidelines. Robot is a robot, presumably, and the sword is back in mask, basically, a year to get a back. The art will be known as the "Sword of Antoine" arc, lasting from SONIC #100-SONIC #100. Everyone in this issue served a good purpose: it exceeded my expectations. RATING: an easy 90

SONIC ART: Ron Lim has a little more emotion. Mike looks scared throughout the story, as it should, but Sonic is at all moments through the pseudo-death sequence. Robot's robotistic when he was supposed to, as depicted on page 11, and Sally looked right in the end of the story throughout the whole story. Ron Lim's art is certainly better. RATING: 88

KNUCKLES STORY: It's a turning point. It's paced to all of its ability, usually, and Knuckles seems into the official ULTIMATE TAILOR, Tobi and Knuckle die. There isn't much more to it, actually. I liked this story. RATING: 90

KNUCKLES ART: It looks identical to last issue's. The unnecessary Phosphor blue Sally 'sides and Tobi's in mid-air, however. RATING: 85

BUNE

Cover Illustration by Patrick Sparrow and Nelson Shumway
with colors and separations by Josh D. Ray. Ed's page layout & design by jaypaf

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